

# **CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**October 2-3, 2003**

*Double Tree Inn – Canyon Room*

*100 Madison*

*Missoula, MT 59802*

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council joint meeting with the Council of Deans was called to order by CSPAC Chair, Gloria Curdy, on Thursday, October 2, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. CSPAC council members present were: Gloria Curdy, Chair; Scott McCulloch, Vice Chair; Melodee Smith-Burreson; George White; Charla Bunker; Douglas Reisig and Dan Villa. Staff members present were: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary of the Board of Public Education; Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC and Tana Haxton, CSPAC Council Secretary. The following people signed the meeting roster: Linda Peterson, Patty Myers, Robert Carson, Margaret Bowles, Carolyn Lott and Larry Baker.

### **ITEM 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Gloria Curdy called the meeting to order and thanked the Council of Deans (COD) for meeting with CSPAC. Formal introductions were then made. Darlene Sellers joined the meeting by phone.

### **ITEM 2 OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL OF DEANS TO PROVIDE INPUT TO CSPAC ON AREAS OF STUDY**

The Council of Deans had no current suggestions on areas of study, but said they would contact CSPAC at a later date if needed.

### **ITEM 3 UPDATE ON THE STUDY BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF TEACHER EDUCATION (AACTE), COMPARING THE TEACHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION PROCESSES USED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION ON TEACHER EDUCATION (NCATE) AND THE TEACHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (TEAC). – Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI/all**

Dr. Linda Peterson greeted the councils and reported that she and Dan Villa had been gathering information to establish clear-cut differences between NCATE and TEAC. She said that the AACTE had agreed to assist them and create a side-by-side comparison of both NCATE and TEAC. Currently, she is waiting for statistical updates to be sent to her from the AACTE.

Dr. Peterson then reviewed compiled information she had obtained for TEAC thus far. She said that even though TEAC has existed for a long time, it has only recently become nationally recognized. The goal of TEAC is to expand college choices for students by increasing external accountabilities and evaluations. TEAC aspires to be an alternative to NCATE and to compete in a positive way with them. Dr. Peterson commented that most likely these two entities would not be at odds with each other. Dr. Peterson said that there is room for both on the national level.

Dr. Peterson stated that she believes it is too soon for the councils to make decisions on whether to support TEAC, NCATE or both. She recommended allowance of enough time for the AACTE to study and make accurate comparisons. She said she expects the AACTE to have their comparisons ready by January 2004. She would present an update on this issue at the January CSPAC meeting.

George White shared his perspective on this issue. He said that most Montana higher education institutions have elected to go through NCATE for teacher accreditation. He commented that this has not been a smooth process and our state has encountered frequent setbacks. Dr. White went on to say that TEAC currently has the full recognition of the Department of Education. He said that Montana should thoroughly question which might be the better choice for our state. Even though he questions certain aspects of these institutions, Dr. White said he is still in favor of NCATE and believes that NCATE is the highest quality that Montana could have.

Dr. Peterson reported that the NCATE protocol is currently out-of-date, but is still the choice Montana has opted for. Even though the state is still in agreement with NCATE, it is in the process of renewing that contract and could make other considerations.

Darlene Sellers said the protocol for NCATE should be discussed, but if Montana decides to update NCATE, this process needs to be well thought out. She said this will likely take a lot of time and council members should be aware of this. Dr. Sellers also commented that when Montana students go out of state most need to go through NCATE, not TEAC. This is another factor to consider when the comparisons are presented at the January meeting.

The councils considered whether language changes in both the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARMS) chapters 57 and 58 should be considered in this process. Dr. Peterson commented that recent language changes to chapter 57 were appropriately made to include all institutions in Montana. She said she was not in favor of any changes, because those changes could eliminate other Montana institutions. This would also be a very time-consuming process for those involved and could shift focus from the issue at hand.

Dr. Lynette Zuroff stated that the language in these chapters could need eventual change to incorporate all teacher preparation standards in Montana. Dr. White agreed with Dr. Zuroff's suggestion, but also reiterated that the process would require much involvement from everyone. If changes to the ARMS chapters were to occur, Montana would have to consider what constitutes standards. That would entail many discussions.

**ITEM 4 NCATE/MONTANA PROTOCOL** – Dr. Linda Peterson/all  
Council members decided that this item was covered through item 3 conversations.

**ITEM 5 HIGHER EDUCATION ACT, TITLE II** – Dr. Linda Peterson/all  
Dr. Peterson gave an update on the online report for higher education. This report has been in use since the early 1990's and requires all those preparing teacher educators to discuss success rates of completers. This report also requires each state to define licensure issues and hold discussions on how they are improving teacher education.

Dr. Peterson said that she is still compiling statistics for this report. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) will be adding a description of the pilot study into this piece soon. Language to include the "No Child Left Behind Act" (NCLB) is also being written for the report. Dr. Peterson said this report is progressing ahead of schedule and should be completed by the Fall of 2004.

**ITEM 6 PILOT STUDY FOR TEACHER CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT** – Dr. Linda Peterson/all  
Dr. Peterson gave details of why the pilot study for teacher assessment was created and where that has led Montana today. She said that during the course of examining the language of the NCLB, it was determined that Montana should disseminate as much information as possible to help new teachers become both comfortable in their classrooms and highly qualified. Even though the model Montana uses to produce highly qualified teachers is a good one, the goal has been continued improvement.

Assisting with that project, the COD helped Dr. Peterson determine how our state could improve the model and incorporate more specific information into it. The COD had arranged a diverse group of educators to come together to discuss and collect information. The first meeting of this group was in August. Since then, the group has invited the Educational Testing Services (ETS) to help organize data collected from all teacher candidates in Montana. This data should be completely compiled by the Fall of 2004.

Currently, 38 states use the Praxis II test as their major component to test accreditation. Robert Carson commented that since this is a nationally recognized test, it allows for the students to be eligible for certification in many different states, not just Montana. The Praxis II is convenient for students in that respect.

George White commended both groups for understanding the importance of high stakes assessment and alignment of curriculum with assessment. He said that he would like to see this subject become more widely recognized, so that other organizations can understand and incorporate it better. He said that would lead to the field of teaching being recognized as high stakes too.

Scott McCulloch stated for the record, that he does not support the pilot study, because schools would become ranked. This would bring Montana's already low-standing model of assessment down, along with spirit of collaboration.

#### **ITEM 7 REVIEW OF THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES (PEPPS) – Dr. Linda Peterson/all**

Dr. Peterson reviewed how the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium started revisions on the PEPPS this year. She said this is the 6<sup>th</sup> review of these standards. This time, emphasis was put on aligning state standards and updating the current document.

Dr. Peterson then reviewed the timeline for this project. She reminded council members that this is a public process and takes time for individual groups to come together. This process involves all education stakeholders in K-20. Individual groups will need consensus as a whole, and then they will have to start the public hearing process.

Steve Meloy wanted to publicly recognize how Dr. Joann Erickson, MSU Bozeman, offered to partially fund this project. He said the BPE is using Dr. Erickson's monetary support as an example to try and collect more private funding.

#### **ITEM 8 OTHER ISSUES**

Gloria took this opportunity to thank the COD for meeting with CSPAC. She said the meeting was very beneficial and she looked forward to more annual visits. She also thanked Dr. Paul Rowland for helping to set up our meeting in Missoula and for including us in campus activities.

#### **ITEM 9 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CSPAC AND THE COUNCIL OF DEANS**

There was no public comment.

**The meeting of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council was called to order by Chair, Gloria Curdy, on Friday, October 3, 2003, at 8:30 a.m.**

#### **ITEM 1 CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING**

Gloria Curdy, Chair, called the meeting to order and role was taken. She asked if there were any proposed changes to the agenda. George White requested that item 11, the Pre-Professional and Development Committee Report, include review questions only. This item was covered yesterday during the joint meeting, so there is no need for extensive discussions. Council members approved that suggestion of change.

Ms. Curdy then asked if there were any change requests from the review of the July 10 & 11, 2003 minutes. Dan Villa said that under item 17, he asked Pete Donovan to keep in contact with the CSPAC council as a whole, not just himself. Ms. Curdy reiterated that under item 2, she had read committee descriptions aloud at the meeting. Those descriptions should be quoted in the minutes.

**MOTION: George White made a motion to approve the July 10 & 11, 2003 CSPAC meeting minutes with added changes. Dan Villa seconded this motion. It was unanimously approved.**

**ITEM 2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Gloria Curdy**

Ms. Curdy handed out 2 drafted explanations of how the CSPAC Mission Statement could be rewritten. Council members thanked her for her drafts and decided upon draft #2 as the new current Mission Statement.

**MOTION: Scott McCulloch made a motion to approve the Mission Statement Draft #2. Dan Villa seconded this motion. The motion was passed. Doug Reisig and George White voted in opposition to this motion.**

**ITEM 3 CHAIR'S REPORT – Gloria Curdy**

Council members reviewed the updated Bylaws list, the CSPAC Committees & Responsibilities list, the Annual Agenda Items list and the CSPAC Meeting Calendar as informational items.

Dan Villa asked that the "CSPAC Committees & Responsibilities" list stay amendable. Council members commented that the list helps to keep the group focused and structured. They decided that it should be included in each agenda packet from now on under the Executive Committee.

**MOTION: George White made a motion to include the "CSPAC Committees & Responsibilities" list in each agenda under the Executive Committee. Dan Villa seconded this motion. It was unanimously approved.**

Doug Reisig publicly thanked Dr. Peterson, for inviting him to sit on the Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) committee. That committee meets about 6 times per year. Mr. Meloy also thanked Dr. Peterson for all her hard work for both the BPE and CSPAC. He commented that she has been an asset for education.

Pete Donovan took this time to remind council members that CSPAC is scheduled to meet jointly with the Board of Public Education on March 11, 2004 in Helena. The BPE will then hold their meeting on March 11 & 12, 2004.

**ITEM 4 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT- Steve Meloy**

Steve Meloy, BPE, spoke about a recent lawsuit within the educational community. This lawsuit involved several school districts in the state. These school districts have taken a stand against the legislative branch for the State of Montana, in regards to accreditation standards. The Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA), the Montana Education Association (MEA) and the Montana Rural Education Association (MREA) have joined the school boards to become part of the lawsuit. The deposition for the case recently took place in Havre and was over 4 hours long. Mr. Meloy said that he would give an update on this situation at the next CSPAC meeting.

Mr. Meloy next talked about how he was honored to be a part of the Montana Teacher Forum 2003. Patty Myers, a member of the BPE, was invited to speak on a panel while at the forum. Her speech helped raise the profile for the BPE and CSPAC.

The BPE Renewal Commission has met several times and is receiving high priority recognition within the educational community. To date, Governor Judy Martz has promised to raise \$80,000 for commission activities, but that money has not been raised yet. Mr. Meloy reported that Dr. Kirk Miller, Chair of the BPE, had been working towards furthering the commission's progression and goals.

Mr. Meloy said that CSPAC is currently 16% expended on their budget, but is generally doing well. The research fund money is in good shape.

**ITEM 5 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Pete Donovan**

Pete Donovan showed council members his meetings attended since they last met in July. He explained how the CSPAC annual newsletter and brochure were sent out to educational organizations and individuals around the state recently. Council members thanked Mr. Donovan for the work involving the newsletters and brochures.

**ITEM 6 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE – Melodee Smith-Burreson**

Melodee Smith-Burreson thanked council members for the opportunity to attend the National Commission on Teaching America's Future (NCTAF) summit conference that was held in Wisconsin on September 28-30, 2003. Ms. Smith-Burreson said that this was a very educational conference. She commented that she enjoyed the experience very much and it left her with a feeling of empowerment. She passed around brochures to show how wonderful the accommodations had been.

Ms. Smith-Burreson went on to say that she was impressed with the range of educational professionals at the conference and how each contributed. George White said that that cooperation between both higher education and K-12 officials is vital to support beginning teachers.

Dan Villa suggested that the BPE Renewal Commission assist with the continuance of professional development projects for K-20 professionals. Council members agreed that continued professional development is important for education, but Dr. White said that low funds in our state is a problem. He said prioritization is the key element to accomplishing these tasks.

Pete Donovan reported that the distribution of the \$5,000 NCTAF grant was very much appreciated throughout Montana. This grant was originally decided upon at the Montana Mentoring Institute through the Montana Commission on Teaching Committee. Mr. Donovan presented a list of schools that received the grant to the council.

**ITEM 7 LICENSURE COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Doug Reisig**

Doug Reisig reported on the Montana Teacher Forum that took place in Helena on September 15, 2003. He commented that he was glad to have been able to attend. He said that testing accountability, low funding and the "No Child Left Behind Act" (NCLB) were the major topics discussed at the forum. Dr. Reisig said that even though these topics were discussed in detail, more solutions could have been offered. He commented that the way the forum operated through small group sessions was a positive idea though.

Ms. Curdy asked council members how the information presented at the forum will become disseminated through Montana. Ms. Smith-Burreson answered that MEA will be distributing a Teacher Forum summary by both hard-copy and electronic mailings. The summary will be posted online as well. Ms. Curdy requested that this summary be included as an agenda item for the next CSPAC meeting.

Mr. Donovan reiterated that the Teacher Forum was a success this year and said that he and Ms. Smith-Burreson were able to participate in the planning process. He said that he would participate in the planning process for the next Teacher Forum as well, and asked council members for suggestions of improvement. Charla Bunker commented that she would like to see the training facilitators concentrate on finding solutions to topics discussed. Mr. Donovan said he would relay this information to the 2004 Teacher Forum planning committee.

The council then discussed how Montana could increase its standards for education. Mr. Meloy commented that the Supreme Court classified that the current standards in our state are at the minimum level upon which quality education can be built. Gloria asked that the BPE Renewal Commission consider outcomes regarding the legislative process for increases to state standards funding. The Renewal Commission could then give CSPAC recommendations on how to proceed with the improvement process. Mr. Meloy offered to draft a letter asking the commission to assist CSPAC. Ms. Curdy thanked Mr. Meloy for offering to write this letter and asked that an update be given at the next CSPAC meeting.

**ITEM 8            PROFESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT – Scott McCulloch**

Steve Meloy reviewed CSPAC's role in the licensure hearing processes. He said that the OPI licensure department was concerned that the public would try to come before CSPAC for license answers, rather than approach OPI first. He said that CSPAC should act as a sounding board for the BPE. Currently, a white paper is being written by Cathy Warhank at OPI to clarify this issue. Scott McCulloch requested an update of this as an agenda item for the next CSPAC meeting. Council members assigned this update to be placed under the Executive Committee.

**ITEM 9            RESEARCH PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT – Dan Villa**

Pete Donovan updated the council on the CSPAC Assessment Study Group activities. He reported that they have already met a total of 3 times and will have 1 more meeting. This final meeting should take place in January and is still being planned.

Currently, Wes Snyder, University of Montana, has written a summary paper that will become a part of the group's white paper. Also, a survey has been written and distributed about whether Montana should continue usage of the Norm Reference Test. At the final assessment group meeting the group will discuss both the results of the survey and Mr. Snyder's summary.

Dr. Reisig commented that he is an advocate of eliminating the Norm Reference Test. He said that Measured Progress is an issue that our state must continue to deal with, but he would like schools to be able to choose to stay with the ITBS test, or switch to the NWEA. That choice should remain a local decision for school districts. He requested the assessment survey reflect flexibility with this issue.

Dan Villa next asked council members for suggestions as to what projects they would like to see the Research Committee target. Dr. White suggested that the committee work towards obtaining a more stratified sample of information about teacher performance, based on student performance. He would like to see what types of data could have the highest impact on teacher education in Montana. Dr. Peterson and Margaret Bowles agreed to assist Mr. Villa on obtaining project data. They decided to focus their efforts on how much money would be needed to expand the capabilities of the current Christa McAuliffe Grant. Dr. White proposed that once CSPAC obtains this data, the council should formulate their goal of how to expand the grant. An update on this project was decided as an agenda item for the next CSPAC meeting.

**ITEM 10           PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL COMMITTEE REPORT –**

Charla Bunker

Pete Donovan gave a summary of the August 7-8, 2003 Montana Mentoring Institute that was held in Bozeman. Currently, OPI is planning the details for the next Mentor Institute that is scheduled for March 2004. Mr. Donovan said that the March 2004 Institute should cost about \$5,000.00 to host.

**ITEM 11           PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. George White**

George White took this time to ask council members if there were any questions from the joint meeting with the Council of Deans. Doug Reisig asked for clarification as to why Montana has

continued to choose NCATE instead of TEAC. Dr. White said that NCATE has been the standard choice for education for many years and is more nationally recognized. TEAC has also been in operation for a long time, but is just starting to be recognized as a competitor with NCATE. There were no further questions.

#### **ITEM 12 PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES**

Pete Donovan reminded CSPAC about the upcoming January 6-8, 2004 Western States Certification Conference that will take place in Scottsdale, Arizona. Council members decided that they would designate who would attend this conference at a later date.

**MOTION: Scott McCulloch made a motion to fund up to 3 CSPAC members to attend the Western States Certification Conference. George White seconded this motion. It was unanimously approved.**

#### **ITEM 13 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Dr. White requested that a CSPAC member attend the TEAC training session that will be held in January or February 2004 in Chicago, IL. The date of this training session was not immediately known, but Dr. White said that he would find out and report back to Ms. Curdy. Council members agreed that attendance at the training session would be beneficial for future TEAC/NCATE discussions. They decided that they would vote electronically once more information was obtained.

Dr. White agreed to send a thank you letter on behalf of the CSPAC council to Dr. Paul Rowland, University of Montana, for including the council in campus activities.

Dan Villa asked that Research Committee Report be permanently moved as the last agenda item from now on. Council members agreed that was a very good idea.

#### **ITEM 14 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CSPAC**

There was no public comment.

**MOTION: Scott McCulloch made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council. George White seconded this motion. It was unanimously approved.**

The CSPAC meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.